

Cork Environmental Forum

Position Paper 7 – County Sustainable Energy Policy



A Sustainable Energy Policy (SEP) for County Cork needs to be developed by the appropriate agencies within the County, with reference to the National Sustainable Development Plan 1997, the Green Paper on Sustainable Energy 1999, and the Regional Energy Plan as and when available. The overall objectives of a SEP should be to promote:

- 1. Security of supply**
- 2. Efficiency of generation**
- 3. Use of renewable sources of energy**
- 4. Energy conservation by users**
- 5. Minimal emissions**
- 6. Sustainable energy consumption**
- 7. Air quality**

With an estimated population of 400,000 in Cork City and County, or over 10% of the national population, there is an opportunity for the County SEP to make a significant contribution to national sustainable energy targets in areas 3,4,5 and 6.

Energy Resource

- 🌱 The County SEP should set out proportionate energy targets for 3,4,5, and 6.
- 🌱 County SEP should identify energy resources available for meeting targets in 1,2,3, and 4.
- 🌱 County SEP should identify strategies for meeting targets particularly wind, biomass, hydro potential with GIS mapping under 3.
- 🌱 Cork County Council Wind Energy Resource and Landscape Assessment Study should be completed for inclusion in the County Development Plan under 3.

Energy Demand

- 🌱 The County SEP should quantify the energy demand of Cork City and County under 6.
- 🌱 County SEP should identify energy consumption patterns, trends and management needed.

Energy Source Management

- 🌱 Renewable energy sources should be actively considered. These include the use of solar water heating panels, shallow geothermal heat pumps, and wood stoves.
- 🌱 Passive solar design should be given higher prominence.
- 🌱 The County Development Plan should actively promote these approaches.
- 🌱 The County Development Plan should actively promote measures for energy conservation and efficiency identified by the County Energy Centre.

Cork County Council Measures

- 🌱 **The County Development Plan should incorporate the County SEP.**
- 🌱 The Council's own housing development and management policies should reflect the aims set out in the County Development Plan.
- 🌱 Renewable energy should be the first choice for Cork County Council's own developments where this is also cost effective.
- 🌱 Cork County Council should carry out an energy audit of all its buildings, social housing, etc.
- 🌱 Cork County Council should develop pilot energy efficient/renewable energy housing projects.
- 🌱 Where permission is granted for a commercial or industrial planning application, energy management should be a condition of the grant.
- 🌱 Grants of domestic planning permission should be accompanied by a note on energy saving measures, a copy of the building regulations, and an outline of the benefits of implementing these measures.
- 🌱 Cork County Council and Cork City Energy Agencies should be actively supported in the excellent work they are doing. They should be given a prime role and necessary support in delivering the County Sustainable Energy Policy via the County Development Plan.

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To foster, promote & implement sustainable development within the Cork region